

Homemade Calf Carrier

"My husband Larry made this 'easy on, easy off' calf hauler that's designed to mount behind any ATV or pickup. It lets me haul newborn calves back to our barn in bad weather with no problems," says Maggie Hill, Lebanon, Mo.

Larry used angle iron and square steel tubing to build a frame for a large plastic barrel. He drilled a hole in the tubing for a hitch pin that slides into the ATV's receiver hitch. He cut the barrel's lid large enough to take a rod-type closing latch at the top, and added a hinge at the bottom. A pair of bolts on back of the frame are used to tighten straps that hold the barrel to the frame.

"It's a real life saver, as I don't have to carry slippery baby calves in my lap while I'm trying to drive," says Maggie. "The calf slides right into the barrel and lays quiet. A series of large holes cut into the side of the



Large holes cut into side of ATV-mounted barrel allow mama cow to see, hear and smell her baby so she'll follow along.

barrel allow the mother to see, hear and smell her baby so she'll generally follow all the way to the barn."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry and Maggie Hill, Hill Dairy, 18770 Ostrich Dr., Lebanon, Mo. 65536 (ph 417 588-9396).

Slip-On Hitch Makes Trailer Storage Easier

"I made this ball hitch to fit onto the front tow hooks on my Ford F-150 pickup. The front hitch gives me a clear view where I want to go and makes the job of backing trailers into tight places a lot easier," says Donald Scholz, Grand Island, Neb.

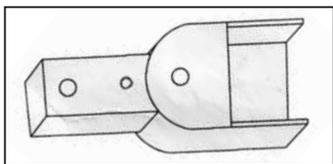
The hitch is made out of 3-in. channel iron and 1/4-in. thick steel plate welded to a length of heavy bar fitted with a ball hitch. It's designed to simply slip over the tow hook. A steel pin goes up from underneath through the tow hook and is held on by a spring-loaded clip.

"I don't know how much weight my pickup's tow hooks will handle, so I haven't hooked heavy loads to the front hitch. But it really makes backing trailers into tight places much easier," says Scholz.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Scholz, 3757 W. Prairie Rd., Grand Island, Neb. 68803 (ph 308 687-6430).



Hitch slips over pickup's tow hook. A steel pin inserts from underneath through the tow hook.



Self-propelled excavator is mounted on a powered 6-ft. dia. turntable that supports the boom. A pair of 55-gal. barrels on back are filled with water to serve as counterweights.

Turntable Excavator Tows Behind Pickup

"It's a simple machine that makes digging faster, easier and cheaper than commercial units," says Richard Gostomski, Thorp, Wis., about his one-of-a-kind, self-propelled excavator mounted on a powered turntable.

The excavator rides on the wheels and axles off a Chevy 1/2-ton 2-WD pickup. It's equipped with a 6-ft. dia. turntable that supports the boom and its 22-in. sq., 18-in. high bucket. The machine is held steady by 4 outriggers that are hydraulically raised and lowered. The boom folds down quickly for transport. A pair of 55-gal. barrels on back of the machine are filled with water to serve as a counterweight.

Power is supplied by a 20 hp. gas engine

that belt-drives a hydraulic pump. The pump belt-drives a pair of tubeless rubber wheels that ride inside channel iron around the top of the turntable. With the booms and outriggers fully extended, the turntable can be rotated up to 185 degrees in either direction before it hits a "stop".

The operator sits on a pedestal-mounted seat 3 ft. above the turntable and uses a foot pedal to rotate the boom from one side to the other. The outriggers can be extended 24 in. and moved up or down all at once and then leveled individually. The bucket can reach out 16 ft. and down more than 10 ft.

"This machine has a lot of advantages. It can be towed behind a pickup at highway

speeds with no need for a truck or trailer. The rubber wheel that rotates the turntable eliminates the need for gears, chains and cables. And it's built with common parts so it's easy to repair," says Gostomski. "I think it would make a great machine for rental agencies. The customer could hook it up to their vehicle and pull it home, then quickly unhook it and put it to work."

The design of the turntable applies pressure toward the bottom of the excavator so the machine's frame can be a lot lighter, says Gostomski. "The turntable on most commercial excavators are gear-operated, which puts all the pressure in the middle of the machine and therefore requires a more

"Finger" Helps Keep Stones From Nicking Mower Blade

Edwin Jordan, Grafton, Iowa, came up with an easy way to keep stones from chipping and dulling the blades on his riding mower.

"Whenever I sharpen the blade, I leave about 1/4 in. at the end of the blade unsharpened and that forms a hook, or finger, that sticks out a ways. The finger knocks stones out of the way, which helps keep the blade from getting nicked up."

He got the idea after watching the outer edge of the blades on his riding mower get round and dull, which pushed the grass away. "The finger acts like a hook and brings grass in toward the blade, which results in a nice, clean cut. It's like dividing the stalks of grass with the tip of a pen."

He says the idea can be used on any mower equipped with a rotary blade, including push mowers.

The finger leaves a tiny uncut strip of grass at the end of the blade. "When I first tried



Unsharpened "finger" at end of blade knocks stones out of the way and acts like a hook to pull grass into blade.

this idea I was concerned about leaving uncut strips of grass on each pass where the blades overlap, but that hasn't happened," he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Edwin Jordan, P.O. Box 301, Grafton, Iowa 50440 (ph 641 748-2113).

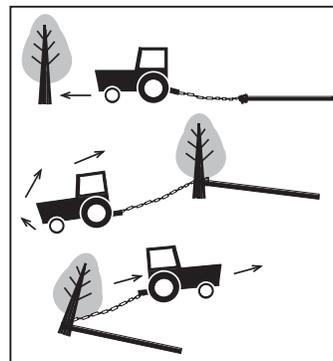
Simple Way To Clear Small Trees, Brush

"My late friend Bob Davis came up with this idea for quickly clearing scrub land of small trees and brush. It's fast, clean, low maintenance, and you never have to get off the tractor," says Paul Wilcox, Morristown, Tenn.

The idea is to drag a 20 to 25-ft. heavy pole behind a tractor with a 20-ft. log chain. Drive around the tree you want to pull and "trap" the tree trunk right where the chain meets the pole by turning the tractor around. It'll yank the tree right out.

"Then you just reverse direction to unwrap the tree from the chain and pole and move onto the next tree. It's simple and works fast," says Wilcox.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Paul Wilcox, 5100 Holston West Dr., Morristown, Tenn. 37819.



Drag a heavy pole behind a tractor with a log chain and drive around trees and brush to yank them out.



A hydraulic pump belt-drives a pair of tubeless rubber wheels that ride inside around top of turntable to rotate boom. Bucket can reach out 16 ft. and down more than 10 ft.

heavy-duty frame."

The machine has electric steering. A small electric motor shaft-drives a gear actuator, which drives a cylinder that Gostomski welded to the cross shaft of the steering wheel. "I press a switch to steer one way or the other," he says.

"If I could do it over I'd use a 4-WD pickup and all terrain tires, but it's hard to get everything right the first time you build something," says Gostomski, who notes that he's looking for a manufacturer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard Gostomski, W8495 Lil Lane Road, Thorp, Wis. 54771 (ph 715 669-7055).